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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:  
a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument; and  
a sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having an hourglass shape defining an aperture for the receipt of the instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the sealing member to resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith.
6. The assembly of claim 5 wherein the fabric of the sealing member comprises an elastic material and is arranged to expand upon engaging the instrument.
7. The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a resilient material.
8. The assembly of claim 7 wherein the fabric is compressed into the resilient material.

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9. The assembly of claim 8 wherein the resilient material is at least bled-into the fabric.

10. The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member has a generally tubular hourglass shape.

11. The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member has a friction-reducing coating.

12. The assembly of claim 5 further comprising a housing and wherein the sealing member is disposed in the housing

13. The assembly of claim 12 further comprising a zero seal in the housing for preventing the escape of insufflation gases in the absence of an instrument.

14. A seal assembly for reception of an elongate surgical instrument, which comprises:

a body having at least one opening to permit entry of an elongate surgical instrument and defining a central longitudinal axis; and

a seal member having an aperture therein, said seal member being formed from a composite sheet material comprising at least one fabric layer and resilient material; and

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said seal member accommodating expansion of the aperture from an initial diameter to a larger diameter upon insertion of a surgical instrument, to resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument in a substantially fluid-tight manner.

15. The seal assembly of claim 14, wherein said aperture is defined by a ring of said resilient material.

16. The seal assembly of claim 5, further comprising a coating to reduce friction between the seal member and surgical instrument.

17. The seal assembly of claim 16, wherein the coating comprises a hydrocyclosiloxane membrane prepared by a plasma polymerization process.

18. The seal assembly of claim 5, further comprising a housing and wherein the seal member is disposed in the housing.

19. The seal assembly of claim 18, further comprising a ring member secured to the seal member and having a dampening element disposed between a surface of the ring member and a surface of the housing.